

Mayor's column for March 11

Spring is just ten days away, and our efforts are continuing when it comes to cleaning up the City, removing trash from alleys, and taking complaints from residents. I would like to avoid those topics this week if I could, and concentrate more on the future- specifically rezoning the South Troy Working Waterfront and the Hoosick Street Corridor.

This week the City Council held its first meeting concerning the rezoning of the South Troy Working Waterfront. On March 23rd, the council's planning committee will again meet at 6 p.m. to discuss the rezoning of the Hoosick Street Corridor.

These two issues are likely to generate some controversy, but that is not a problem. Not everyone always agrees with change, but I will do my best to work with all nine members on the council so that we may move forward on these two important areas. Years of planning have taken place, but now it's time to start doing.

The South Troy Plan is broken up into three areas, and it will be completed with the goal in mind of capitalizing on one of our greatest resources- the riverfront. I won't sit here and say that new business will be there by the end of the year, but I can tell you that by moving forward with this plan, the interests of the City of Troy will be pushed to the forefront. That's the way it should be.

When it comes to Hoosick Street, the problem is we are not capitalizing on another asset. We have the second most heavily traveled road in the Capital District running directly through our City. People come from all over, they use that road, and whether it is from New York City, New Jersey, or any place else, Troy is the first place they slow down after hours of driving. We need to put our best foot forward to not only make those cars slow down, but to get them to stop.

We will do that by bringing in more business and producing an environment that will have people wanting to stop here. Our goal is to have people stop because it is both aesthetically pleasing and a prerequisite for visiting upstate New York.

Both of these dreams for rezoning are in the future, but they are closer than you think. By taking these first steps, we will get closer by the day.

See you next week when spring will be but two days away.

Mayor Harry Tutunjian